

War monument to be dedicated Friday

Tule Lake camp was site of internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II

By LEE JUILLERAT
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TULELAKE — Dedication ceremonies for the Tule Lake Unit of the new World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, timed to coincide with the Tule Lake Pilgrimage, will have different meanings to different people.

Ceremonies are planned for 10 a.m. Friday outside the stockade, the building that served as a prison with-

in the prison at the former Tule Lake Detention-Segregation Center during WWII.

More than 18,000 Japanese-Americans were held at the camp near present-day Newell. The camp became notorious when it was converted from a detention camp to a segregation center in 1943. Of the 10 U.S. camps, Tule Lake was one of the largest and open the longest.

"The acknowledgement of the government of Tule Lake has done a lot for the older, former Tule-ans," believes Hiroshi Shimizu, a pilgrimage leader who lived at Tule Lake as a young boy with his family. "It give the incarcerated more confidence about coming back and not hiding their status as Tule Lake people."

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H&N photo by Lee Juillerat

Dave Kruse, Lava Beds National Monument superintendent, stands outside the former Tule Lake Segregation Center prison, where Friday's dedication ceremonies for the Tule Lake Unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument will be held.

MONUMENT

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Nearly 400 people are planning to attend the pilgrimage

Most of the Japanese-Americans sent to Tule Lake when it became a segregation center refused to sign a controversial loyalty oath.

For many years, those held at Tule Lake, which had barbed wire fences and armed guards posted in towers, were lowly regarded by other Japanese-Americans.

People set to arrive

Shimizu said nearly 400 people are attending the pilgrimage, which begins this afternoon when buses arrive from Seattle, San Jose, San Francisco, Berkeley and Sacramento.

Of the 400, more than 100 are 80 years old or older, including many formerly incarcerated at Tule Lake. During the pilgrimage — which will have most of its programs at Oregon Institute of Technol-

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ogy — oral interviews are planned with older attendees, especially those who were held at Tule Lake.

The former Tule Lake Detention Center and Camp Tulelake, which served as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, Japanese-American confinement site and prisoner of war camp, are among nine areas included with the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

The Tule Lake unit is managed cooperatively by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service. Other park

units are around Pearl Harbor and the Aleutian Islands of Atka, Attus and Kiska in Alaska.

"We're just getting started on setting up the new park," said Dave Kruse, Lava Beds National Monument superintendent who is working with Ron Cole, manager of the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges.

"It certainly may be commemorating one of the uglier events in American history. The site itself is not that attractive, but there are some very interesting stories to be told."

Dedication ceremonies Friday open to public

The public is invited to Friday's dedication ceremony for the new World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument's Tule Lake unit.

Ceremonies begin at 10 a.m. outside the former stockade at the former Tule Lake Segregation Center near Newell, about seven miles south of Tulelake off Highway 139. Parking will be available on-site with access from County Road 176. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m.

From noon to 1 p.m.,

the stockade will be open for public tours.

Among those expected to attend are Jon Jarvis, the National Park Service's regional director; representatives for three regional Congressmen and women; Manzanar National Monument Superintendent Les Inafuku; National Japanese Americans Citizens League executive director Floyd Mori; Tulelake Mayor Jennifer Cooney; and Japanese Counsel General Yasumasa Nagamine.

Tours of former Camp Tulelake offered

The Tule Lake Unit's temporary visitor center is at the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds office building in Tulelake.

Tours of the former Camp Tulelake and the prison at the former Tule Lake Segregation Center will be offered on a

request basis through the summer. For information, call the visitor center at (530) 260-0537, or from Lava Beds National Monument at (530) 667-8100 or www.nps.gov/labe. A new Web site for the park will be set up at www.nps.gov/tule.